

Medicare Advantage: special needs plans

ISSUE: Congress created a new type of Medicare Advantage (MA) plan known as a special needs plan (SNP) in the 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) to provide a common framework for existing demonstration plans for special needs beneficiaries and to expand beneficiaries' access to and choice among MA plans. SNPs will be a feature of the MA program at least through December 2008. SNPs offer the potential to design benefits and delivery systems for dual eligibles and other special needs beneficiaries.

KEY POINTS: For this month, we will present preliminary findings on SNPs and discuss our research questions and work plan.

ACTION: The session is designed to describe and receive feedback on the work plan and preliminary findings.

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